

# Hydra-matic NEWS

Published Monthly By And For The Men And Women Of HYDRA-MATIC Division And Their Families

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Ypsilanti, Michigan

## Hydra-matic Team Does It Again



C. F. Brundle, Manufacturing Manager; J. S. Garlic, General Manager; J. W. Moon, Superintendent, Defense Division; Ike Pratt checks reassembly of final M-39A3 20MM gun.

The M-39A3 20 mm gun contract is now history at Hydra-matic. The last gun, No. 6110, was test fired, cleaned and re-assembled June 27, 1968 and will be delivered to the Government four months ahead of schedule. Production and quality records are not new at Hydra-matic, both on commercial and military products. The first M-39A3 gun was produced by Hydra-matic two months ahead of contract schedule or eight months from the date of contract signing. Tooling up a weapon of this kind usually takes 18 months!

Hydra-matic's accomplishments on the M-39 program were summed up recently by Lt. General R. G. Ruegg of The United States Air Force to Mr. R. M. Kyes, Executive Vice President of General Motors when he said in a letter to Mr. Kyes: "I wish to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks and appreciation to you and the personnel of the Hydra-matic Division for the outstanding production record established on the 20 mm gun (M-39A3) Program. With your initial production guns accepted eight months after contract award, your consistent ability to deliver ahead of contract on a compressed schedule was achieved because of the positive 'can do' approach taken by all of your personnel associated with this very important program."

The quality of the weapon was outstanding and certainly was symbolic of the GM Mark of Excellence which was stamped on all 20 mm guns produced by Hydra-matic.

The 6,110 20 mm guns were produced by Hydra-matic without an injury despite the fact that nearly One-Half Million rounds of ammunition were fired in testing the guns.

Mr. Garlic said "the performance of this contract is a true tribute to the entire Hydra-matic Team and the Hydra-matic way of doing things. The M-39 is now history at Hydra-matic and we must now gear ourselves to a new and exciting program — a Hydra-matic 'can do' program — the M-16 Rifle."

### How Employee Ideas Are Evaluated

Employee suggestions are picked up twice each week from the Suggestion Boxes throughout the plant. After being recorded and checked for duplications, they are assigned by areas to one of three full-time Suggestion Investigators.

The Investigators gather information about the idea from the suggester, his foreman and from departments such as Plant Engineering, Master Mechanics or Product Engineering. **One out of every three Hydra-matic suggestions is approved for use.** The Investigators follow the Work Orders, Tool Orders and Engineering changes to get the suggestion adopted as soon as possible.

As soon as the suggestion is in use and information on the savings it is producing is established, the Investigators present the suggestion to the Suggestion Committee for evaluation. The Committee meets once each week to establish suggestion award amounts in accordance with the policy of General Motors Suggestion Plan.

The Investigators and the 10 committee members discuss the suggestion and contribute information from their own experience to aid in establishing the worth of an idea.

### HOW MUCH ARE YOU WORTH?

John Swadener, Dept. 881, was curious as to his assets both tangible and intangible. After a few minutes with a pad and pen he discovered assets he'd forgotten about. Perhaps his list will suggest hidden treasure of real value and worth you may have overlooked.

#### Tangible Assets:

Wages, cash, savings, checking account, cost of living allowance, proceeds from Stock-Saving Program, dividends from stocks and bonds, shares of stock in other companies, U. S. Savings Bonds, interest from savings account.

#### Intangible Assets:

Market value of real estate, auto (autos), household property, personal property, hobby equipment, investment in Retirement Program, investment in Stock-Savings Program, loan or cash in value of insurance policies, insurance paid by employer, Social Security benefits.

These are some of the items that John had on his list. Perhaps you have others.

**'RIGHT THE FIRST TIME'  
SAVES TIME, SAVES MONEY**



## Hydra-matic NEWS

Dick Shannon ..... Editor  
 Roy Bolton ..... Staff Artist  
 John Lynch ..... Coordinator  
 Fred Horne ..... Photographer

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 Conrad Schubach ..... Process Eng.  
 Esther Stottle ..... Salary Payroll  
 Sumner Tallman ..... Reliability  
 Brent Thompson ..... Personnel  
 Fred Woolfenden ..... Suggestions

## YOU ARE ELECTED!

This is election year and what happens at the polling places will affect you, your children, and in all probability your children's children. This year, perhaps as never before, the chips are down and the stakes are fantastically high.

Obviously our nation is in deep trouble, at home and abroad, and if we do nothing to curb the rising tide of tyrannical malcontents we will deserve the chaos that appears to lie ahead.

"Tyranny begins where law ends," said William Pitt. Knowledgeable law enforcement officers agree that strict adherence to existing laws would go a long way toward solving many of our problems.

At this fearsome hour, it would seem that we need government . . . municipal, county, state and federal . . . which will enforce the law without fear or favor. Merely passing emergency laws which tend to chip away more of our freedoms may be politically expedient. But we need statesmen, not politicians, to lead us out of this mess.

This is where each of us comes in. As one person our voice may go unnoticed. But if each of us will only write our local, state and federal officials and tell them what action we expect from them, our voice can and will be heard.

So if you agree that now is the time for positive action . . . YOU ARE ELECTED . . . to stand up and speak out . . . not just to your neighbor but to those who make and enforce our laws.

**Want to make a big hit?  
(don't fasten your seat belt)**

## BRENT THOMPSON DOUBLY HONORED



Louis G. Seaton, Vice President of General Motors, presents an award for most outstanding Men's Club Contact Representative to Brent Thompson of Hydra-matic Personnel. B. W. Baldwin, Personnel Director, smiles approval.

On June 6 Brent Thompson of the Personnel Department was elected Secretary of the GM Men's Club and also received an award for the most outstanding Men's Club Representative.

The selection of Mr. Thompson as the outstanding Club Contact Representative from a list of 50 men who act as liaison officers between the Executive Board and their divisions is a signal honor and indicates enthusiastic and thorough handling of his Club assignments.

Mr. Thompson was grateful for the large turnout of Hydra-matic men whose support was a prime factor in his election as Secretary. He expressed his thanks to Mr. Garlic and Mr. Baldwin for their support and encouragement.

Some 1,200 GM men were present at the dinner meeting and appreciated the fine talk by Mr. James Roche, GM Board Chairman.

Mr. Roche complimented the Men's Club for their charitable contributions and for their part as members of the GM team. He described the dynamic thrust of the Corporation with its many opportunities for dedicated employees.

"GM is no whistle-stop for any employee," he said as he pointed out that our success has not been achieved by anyone "resting on the oars." It is the result of team effort that is never satisfied with mediocrity.

## SINGING TEENS

Walter Lewis 16, son of John W. Lewis, Dept. 818 is a member of a 94 voice, teenage chorus which toured six European countries in April and gave concerts in 10 cities. The chorus, members of the Church of Christ, spent 17 days in Europe and received standing ovations wherever they appeared.

## Improvement Program Enters Second Phase

Hydra-matic's Quality Improvement Program was announced in the March issue of Hydra-matic News. A booklet containing information about our Division and the Hydra-matic transmission was mailed to plant employees' homes. The response from the questionnaire in the booklets indicated that most employees found them interesting and informative.

Other booklets were written to give more detailed information about major parts or assemblies of the transmission. These booklets cover the following parts: Transmission Case . . . Oil Pump . . . Shafts . . . Gears and Gear Units . . . Purchased Parts and Assembly . . . Servo-Accumulator . . . Control Valve Assembly . . . Governor Converter Bands . . . Sprags . . . Roller Clutch . . . and Clutch Assemblies.

Books detailing these parts and assemblies are being distributed to production and inspection people whose work is covered in one or more of the booklets.

Material handlers, skilled tradesmen, and employees in departments such as Automatics and Press Room play a vital part in the final quality of our products. In this second phase of our Quality Improvement Program booklets covering these activities are not available because the broad scope within these job classifications cannot be covered in a brief booklet.

## Interlochen Bound

Lynne Ferguson, teen-age daughter of Don Ferguson, Engineering, was awarded a scholarship to the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan. The Willow Run High School Band Booster's Club awarded this scholarship to Lynne, a 9th grader. She plans to be a teacher and is interested in music and history. While at Interlochen Lynne will play E flat clarinet in the All State Band.

## Now It's Sgt. Mike Muth

Michael Muth, son of Robert Muth, tool specialist, graduated with sergeant's stripes at recent ceremonies at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Sgt. Muth was one of only 36 Field Artillery Noncommissioned Officer Candidates to become sergeants upon completion of a 12-week intensive training program. Sgt. Muth was selected for this special schooling based on his high grades and leadership qualities displayed in earlier Army training.

**There's just no stopping you!  
(if you don't fasten your seat belt)**



## Tigers to Roar for Div. Girls

Hydra-matic Girls' Club invites all Division women, their girl friends, and wives of Hydra-matic men to come along to dinner and the ball game on Friday, August 9th.

A chartered bus will leave from in front of the Administration Building at 4:45 p.m. There will be dinner at Baja's then on to Tiger Stadium to cheer the Bengals on to a win over the pesky Boston Red Sox. Following the game, the bus will return to the Administration Building.

Here is more good news! For round-trip bus, dinner, and reserved seat at the ball game, the total special package price is only \$8.50. See your contact girl for tickets.

## The Material Patroller

### Tenant Tidings:

John Suggs used to drive a hi-lo at building 95 —

Now we want to wish him welcome to the Dock 1 office tribe.

A special hearty welcome to a newcomer — John Seps is his name,

And it's only five weeks since from Czechoslovakia to America he came.

### Convalescence Corner:

"Smiley" Bill Wood's little girl had open heart surgery and we're happy to say —

She's getting stronger and feeling better with every passing day.

Mike Voggennieder's Dad is better after his operation, this is nice to hear —

And Adam Muller's lovely wife Wanda is home recuperating with her happy family near.

## F. B. Ling and Co. Champs Team 13 Finishes Last!

The 1968 Second Shift Bowling Championship was won by F. B. Ling and Co. the "Inspection Team." Members of the winning team are: Doug Wilson 184, Mike Kocik 179, Lou Galesky 175, R. Carson, Jr. 146. F. B. Ling and Co. captured the first spot and trophy on the very last day of the season, beating out Stan Pawlak and Co. "The Saints."

Other highlights of the season were Joe Drillingas' fine 738 series and Art Florky's high game of 290.

Doubles champions were Vern Hartgrove and Dennis Hahn. And, of course, if you can't be at the top it is only natural to see who is at the bottom of the list. Team 13 managed to hold onto last place by putting up a stiff fight to stave off all challengers. We wonder if there is any significance to #13?

## Sam Scherer Has Rousing Send-off



Retiree Sam Scherer and Mrs. Scherer beam, as friends Robert Perry and (2nd row) Mr. and Mrs. Dan Brown pose for the camera at Sam's retirement party.

Sam Scherer, Quality Control Foreman in the Defense Division, will retire on August 1. Sammy (as he is known to his many, many friends) started with Hydra-matic as a finish grinder on March 4, 1940. In June, 1953 he was made a junior engineer and two months later became a Quality Control Foreman. Until his recent transfer to the Defense Division, he spent several years in Service Packaging ensuring the quality of our service replacement parts. While on that assignment he became known as a walking parts list, being able to recall hundreds of part numbers from memory.

Sam and his wife, Mary Ann, plan to take a month's vacation and fly to Alaska. Their return trip will include a boat trip along the inland passage.

"Sam's Grand Slam" Retirement Party was held at Lofy's Arbor Lil on Friday, June 28. Over 100 friends and associates gathered to honor Sammy. Dan Brown was master of festivities which included presentation of a portable indoor-outdoor TV set to Mr. Scherer.

## All Good Things in the Golden Years

Nine employees begin their Golden Years in July, a time for new adventures, new opportunities, and expanded horizons.

NAME	Dept.	Years
Joseph A. Blay	720	30.7
Kenneth Copeland	720	17.9
Stillwell Head	340	26.1
Samuel R. Jones	802	19
Frances Kanarek	240	25.7
Rene Parisien	882	15.3
Turner Robinson	310	16.6
Russell C. Shaver	853	17.9
George Steinke	802	26.1

## 25 FUTURE FOREMEN FINISH SPECIAL COURSE

The Division is conducting Pre-Supervisory Training for employees who have evidenced interest in moving into supervisory work. Interested employees who believed they could qualify as foremen were given the opportunity to apply for special training. Notices regarding this opportunity were posted throughout the plant.

Supervisory training includes such basic management subjects as Human Relations, Communications, Safety and Job Instruction. Trainees spend a week in the classroom and another week observing an experienced foreman in an actual work situation. General Motors Institute instructors conduct classroom training supplemented by presentations from Hydra-matic Dept. heads.

Two classes were held in 1967. A third class was completed this month. Those completing their training are:

**Roger O. Kash, George H. Wilson—Accounting Department.**

**Donald D. King, Russell W. Newton—Assembly Division.**

**James P. Geniusz—Case Division.**

**Charles W. Hills, John Hudelston, Benjamin C. McVay, George J. Opolski—Central Stores.**

**Wendell J. Gruber, Jesse L. Owen, Douglas W. Price—Cutter Grind.**

**Paul A. McCartney—Material Handling.**

**Gerald L. Holbert, Richard M. McMahon, Henry H. Petrie, Stanley Roberts—Plant Engineering.**

**Curtis H. Baker, Leland J. Champagne, John B. Clark, Charles M. Kovick, Donald H. Widmark, Robert J. Willis—Quality Control.**

Two more classes will be held in the near future. They will include those employees who made application for the Supervisory Training.

## Sick Bay

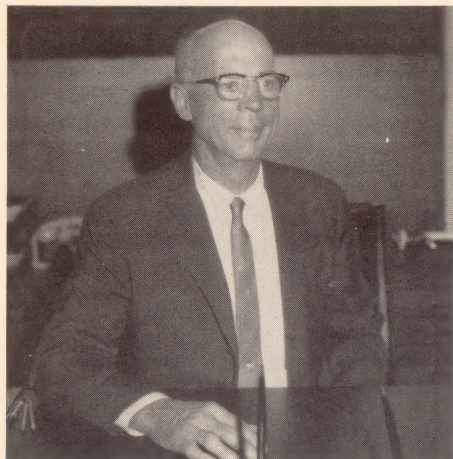
Gary D. Stoddard, machine operator in the Gear Division, is in Beyer Hospital. Gary's father, Earl Stoddard, third-shift machine repairman, reports that due to a serious kidney infection an operation may be necessary. In this case blood donations will be greatly appreciated. Should you care to be a donor please contact Gary's father, Earl at 831 Tyler Road, Ypsilanti.

## ANCHORS AWEIGH

Martin Laubernds, son of Richard Laubernds, Dept. 801, left for Great Lakes Naval Station where he will take his basic training. He plans on becoming an Electronics Specialist. Martin has the best wishes of his family and friends.



## Herndon Honored for 40 Years of Service



Walter B. Herndon (Director of Reliability) proudly displays his "Three Diamond" service pin awarded to him for 40 years of continuous service with General Motors. This milestone was attained on July 5.

Mr. W. B. Herndon has been Director of Reliability of the Hydra-matic Division of General Motors since July 1, 1961.

He joined General Motors in 1928 as a tool designer for the Cadillac Motor Car Division. He became a product design engineer a year later and served in the Cadillac Engineering Department for ten years where he worked on all major units of the Cadillac and LaSalle cars. In 1932 Mr. Herndon was selected to work on the design and development of the original power shifting transmission that later became the Hydra-matic. He designed the hydraulic controls for these first transmissions which proved the feasibility of shifting under torque, and established the principles that are now used in all automotive automatic transmissions.

In 1964, Mr. Herndon received a citation in connection with the 1963 Elmer A. Sperry Award for "engineering contributions leading to development and production of the first notably successful automobile transmission capable of automatically changing drive ratio without perceptible relaxation of driver torque."

He is the inventor or co-inventor on twenty-one patents having to do with automatic transmission design and manufacture.

Mr. Herndon received a bachelor of science degree from Washington State College in 1928. He was awarded a master of science in engineering degree from the University of Michigan in 1940.

He is a member of the Engineering Society of Detroit, The Society of Automotive Engineers, the American Ordnance Association and the American Society of Quality Control.

## SAFETY SHOES HELP

Charles Harrison, a second shift pipe-fitter, in Plant Engineering Department was attempting to determine the cause of a malfunction in a deburring machine. To better observe the trouble spot he climbed onto the tank section of the machine. While standing there, he inadvertently placed his right foot in a dangerous shear point.

When the hydraulic actuated shuttle rod was in forward motion Charlie's right foot became wedged between a limit switch box and the front portion of the shuttle rod. A one ton force was exerted against the shoe at the wedge point.

Charlie suffered a fracture of the metatarsal bones in his right foot. Had he not been wearing safety shoes his toes would have been seriously crushed. Without a doubt his safety shoes prevented a much more serious injury to his foot.

## HONOR STUDENT

Cadet Major Dennis Forget, son of Maurice Forget, Asst. Supt. Central Stores, was honored during recent graduation ceremonies at Barbour Hall Junior Military School in Kalamazoo.

Dennis received the St. Joseph Award which read: "Awarded to the Cadet who has attended Barbour Hall for four years and has during that time been outstanding in character, habits, generosity, and leadership." Congratulations, Dennis.

## 'Executives' of the Future Relax at Conference Table



These young men and young ladies felt quite at home in the new Engineering Conference Room.

An Open House was held Wednesday, June 19, for Engineering employees, friends and relatives. Approximately 100 people toured the new facilities on the first floor. Cookies, soft drinks and coffee were served.

Youngsters were identified by attractive name tags fastened to their clothing (front, back and even diapers).

Two ten-minute movies were shown in the new conference room, "Partners in Space and Defense" showing how industry provides muscle to help government safeguard our freedom and "Our American Crossroads," a colorful and entertaining film about the automobile.

## Warren Perkins Completes 8000 Hour Apprenticeship



Warren J. Perkins receives his diploma and congratulations for satisfactory completion of 8,000 hours of work and school apprenticeship qualifying him as a Journeyman Toolmaker. Others shown here are (left to right) Paul F. Betts, Chairman Local 735 Apprentice Committee; (Perkins) Henry H. Tark, Supervisor of Apprentices; Fred Woolfenden, Management Representative on the Apprentice Committee, and Chris C. Canterbury, UAW representative.

This fine photograph of a Hydra-matic Apprentice Graduation appears in the manual, describing the GM-UAW Standard Apprentice Plan.